

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 DHA-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /050 W
----- 060473

O R 191020Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8926

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, AO (GEARHART, DANIEL AND BACON, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: RETURN OF REMAINS

REFS: (A) ROME 11547; (B) STATE 172075

1. VECCHI INTERVENTION JULY 17 APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL. ANGOLAN MFA'S CHEF DE CABINET AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE RESPONDED "ENTIRELY POSITIVELY" THAT, GOA'S STIPULATION OF RECEIPT OF APPROPRIATE REQUEST BY JULY 18 FROM DULY ACCREDITED EMBASSY HAVING MBEEN MET, THEY WERE PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSPORT OF BOTH BODIES. VECCHI WAS ASKED TO (AND DID) PUT REQUEST IN WRITING, AND TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITH MINJUSTICE TODAY, JULY 19.

2. VECCHI IS WORKING WITH FUNERARY FIRM WHICH HANDLED REPATRIATION OF EXECUTED BRITISH. CORREIA HAS BEEN ASSISTING ITALIAN EMBASSY AND WILL CONTUNUE TO DO SO IN WORKING OUT THE FORMALITIES.

3. VECCHI'S TELEGRAM TO MFA REPORTS THAT, UNLESS ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES "REASSESS" THEIR POSITION, HE MAY SHORTLY BE IN A POSITION TO SHIP BACON'S REMAINS. APPARENTLY CORREIA IS NOT INFORMED AS TO FINANCE AND CONSIGNEE ASPECTS THAT SHIPMENT, WHICH VECCHI REQUESTS URGENTLY. PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH THAT DATA ASAP FOR RELAY TO VECCHI.

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4. CAUTIONARY NOTE: VECCHI'S TELEGRAM SEEMS TO IMPLY, BUT DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE, THAT WHEREABOUTS OF BACON'S BODY ARE KNOWN, AND THAT HE EXPECTS TO HAVE ACCESS TO THEM. WHETHER BODY WAS EMBALMED AND/OR BURIED IS NOT INDICATED. THUS, WHILE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE TO BACON'S REMOVAL, PRACTICAL PROBLEMS COULD STILL INHIBIT OR PREVENT THE TRANSFER. VOLPE

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